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There are other novel and important features of the Poulsen system which it would take too long to mention. As yet only a beginning has been made in developing its possibilities. The next step will be to test and put in use generators of increasing powers, from which increasing ranges are expected. The success so far attained has advanced the science of communication considerably beyond its generally recognized limits, and affords sound basis for the expectation that a few years will see much of the present work not only of ocean cables but also of long distance telegraph lines done by undamped electromagnetic waves transmitted through space.

ROBERT ANDERSON

WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
November 6, 1912

#### PICTURES OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

HAVING the Open Court series pictures of psychologists and philosophers, I have often wished that I had those of present-day psychologists on the walls of my recitation room. I have often thought of writing to psychologists for their photographs, but that would be a good deal of trouble and if a number followed that plan it would become a nuisance to those whose pictures were most desired. A continuation of the Open Court series would be desirable, but who is to decide which of the living men should be included and would not such a series be unprofitable because of its inclusions and omissions?

The following plan occurs to me as a means of getting what is desired without any of the above disadvantages. Let those desiring photographs name the ones whose pictures are desired to the one who is willing to take charge of the matter. That one can then procure one photograph of each person named and have a plate made from it of the same size as the Open Court series and arrange with a photographer to furnish photos from these plates at a reasonable rate.

Are there enough who desire such pictures to make it worth while to inaugurate the plan? This can be answered if all who are interested

will at once write to me signifying their desires and naming at least a few of the men whose pictures they wish. Prominent educators and perhaps other men of science might be included if they were asked for. If interested do not fail to write at once.

E. A. KIRKPATRICK

FITCHBURG, MASS.

#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*The Spider Book.* A Manual for the Study of the Spiders and Their Near Relatives, The Scorpions, Pseudoscorpions, Whipscorpions, Harvestmen, and Other Members of the Class Arachnida, Found in America north of Mexico, with Analytical Keys for Their Classification and Popular Accounts of Their Habits. By J. H. COMSTOCK. Garden City, New York, Doubleday, Page & Co. 1912. Pp. xv + 707; 771 figs.

This work, the most recent of the series of well-known nature books published by Doubleday, Page & Company, fills a long-felt need, since the spiders are the most abundant and conspicuous representatives of a large group of organisms, which have never aroused an interest, in the American student at least, at all commensurate with their biological and economic importance. The author has arranged the vast amount of material, which he has accumulated during more than a decade of enthusiastic study, in conformity with the plan adopted in the preceding volumes of the series, throwing the emphasis on the classification and subordinating the morphological, ethnological and chorological data to this arrangement. By way of introduction to the main subject of the volume the various lower groups of Arachnida are briefly discussed. This portion of the work, apart from the useful tables for identification, does not rise above the level of many zoological text-books, and some of the sections, as, *e. g.*, those on the ticks and mites, scarcely do justice to our present knowledge or to the economic importance of the subject. The account of the spiders, which are, after all, the subject of the book, is preceded by chapters on

their external and internal anatomy and their behavior. The anatomical treatment is detailed and comprehensive but, except for a careful description of the male palpus, contains little that is new. Professor Comstock's study of the palpus forms a small treatise in itself and constitutes a valuable contribution to our knowledge of a peculiarly intricate mechanism. The spinning glands are also discussed in considerable detail as the author has been much interested in the construction of the web, a subject fully treated in his account of the "life of spiders," to the neglect or abridgment of many other equally interesting habits in these solitary organisms. No general account of the geographical distribution of the nearctic species is attempted, although such an account would have been very timely and of great interest to many zoologists who are not arachnologists. The systematic descriptions of the genera and species, and especially the tables for their identification, which occupy three fourths of the volume, are extremely valuable. The species are adequately illustrated from photographs or drawings of living or recently killed specimens, with their webs, nests, details of anatomical structure, color patterns, etc. Most of the figures have been well reproduced, but in some cases the fine photographs have suffered the customary deterioration in the hands of the engraver and printer. These are, of course, not the faults of the author, who deserves the hearty congratulations and thanks of all American zoologists for having given them such a helpful and beautiful volume.

W. M. WHEELER

*Duc d'Orléans. Campagne Arctique de 1907.*

Annélides Polychètes par PIERRE FAUVEL, iv, 45 pp., 4°, 2 pl.; Crustacés Malacostracés, par le DR. LOUIS STAPPERS, xxiv, 152 pp., 4°, 7 pl., 2 charts. Imp. Sci. Bruxelles, 1911.

The annelid fauna of the Arctic seas being practically circumpolar, and investigated in much detail by the Scandinavian and German naturalists, it was hardly to be expected

that the expedition of the Duke of Orleans on the *Belgica* in 1907 would add many novelties. As a matter of fact *Sphærodorum philippi* Fauvel was the only new species among the sixty-two collected on the coasts of Novaia Zemlaia, the Murman, Kara and Polar seas. Valuable notes as to the distribution, and data on the organization of several little-known forms, and a useful bibliography of work on Arctic annelids ensure a welcome for the memoir.

The sea north of Siberia has been but partially explored for Crustacea, and Dr. Stapper's collection, in spite of the adverse circumstances attending work in ice-encumbered waters, comprised no less than ninety-four species, of which two amphipods, one isopod and two sympods proved unknown to science.

Many of the species collected were obtained in considerable numbers, which permitted dissection of numerous individuals. The exact data as to distribution in depth and geographic range render the records of the collection especially valuable to science, and the twelve pages of bibliography will prove a boon to students. The execution of the plates as usual with this series of reports leaves nothing to be desired.

WM. H. DALL

*Beyond War: A Chapter in the Natural History of Man.* By VERNON L. KELLOGG. New York, Henry Holt and Company. 1912. Pp. ix + 172. \$1.00.

A biologist's contribution to the literature of the peace movement. The argument of the book runs somewhat as follows. "Man" is, like any organic species, a stage in evolution, an organism with a past and with a future. Human nature, like Nature herself, is not immutable, but inevitably mutable. Characteristics possessed at one time by the supra-modal few come to be possessed by the mode, and in passing are represented, for a time, only in the sub-modal group. War is such a trait—now vestigial, not rudimentary—an anomaly and an anachronism; it will disappear from human life when the mode of the species is well beyond war. When the